

NewsCOR

Raleigh's Weekly Newsgram



RALEIGH OMITTS AMMONIA FROM WATER PROCESSING FOR A MONTH STARTING FRIDAY

The City of Raleigh temporarily will stop adding ammonia to its water treatment disinfecting process on Feb. 24 at 10 a.m.

The change in treatment is required by federal and state regulations governing the operation of the City's water system. The City will resume adding ammonia to the water treatment process on April 6 at 10 a.m.

Using ammonia in the treatment process reduces the amount of trihalomethanes, a by-product formed when water is disinfected with chlorine. The one-month return to chlorine-only disinfecting is not expected to cause any significant increase in trihalomethanes. Trihalomethane levels are strictly regulated in drinking water. The City of Raleigh has maintained compliance with all limits on trihalomethanes since regulations were put in place in 1981.

Some users of water may be affected by the temporary change in the treatment process. Water customers should be aware that residual traces of ammonia and chlorine must be removed from the water prior to use in fish tanks and ponds, kidney dialysis and some commercial manufacturing of food and beverages.

The City also conducts flushing of the water distribution system during this period to hasten the change of chloramines to chlorine residual disinfectant. This flushing may cause some temporary discoloration in the water. The water is absolutely safe. However, as a precaution, customers may want to check to see if their water is discolored before laundering white clothes.

Water customers affected by this change include those who pay water bills to the City of Raleigh and to the towns of Rolesville, Garner, Knightdale, Holly Springs, Wendell, Wake Forest, Zebulon and Fuquay-Varina.

Questions about this change in water treatment should be directed to Edward Buchan, Public Utilities Department coordinator, City of Raleigh, P.O. Box 590, Raleigh NC 27602 or Edward.buchan@raleighnc.gov.



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HISTORIC ST. AGNES HOSPITAL TO BE HONORED FEB. 25

As part of its Black History Month celebration, the North Central Citizens Advisory Council will honor the decades of service St. Agnes Hospital provided African American residents. The celebration will be Feb. 25 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Martin Luther King Jr. Ballroom on the St. Augustine's College campus, 1315 Oakwood Ave.

In anticipation of this celebration, Mayor Nancy McFarlane proclaimed Feb. 25 St. Agnes Hospital Day in Raleigh during the Feb. 21 City Council meeting.

St. Agnes Hospital opened in 1896 and served Raleigh's African American residents from its location on the St. Augustine's College campus until the opening of Wake Med in April 1961.

The Mayor's proclamation noted that, "almost as important as the care the hospital provided its patients was the training it provided its Nursing School students" throughout those 65 years.

"More than 500 professional nurses received their training at St. Agnes," Mayor McFarlane stated, "resulting in the treatment of untold sick and injured."

Additionally, St. Agnes Hospital operated a medical school for 26 years, training about 80 physicians in internal medicine, obstetrics, gynecology and surgery.

PUBLIC HEARING SET ON PROPOSED BOND ISSUE FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS

The Raleigh City Council is considering a plan to issue up to \$9 million in two-thirds general obligation bonds for four special projects. Council members voted Feb. 21 to hold a public hearing on the proposal on March 6 at 7 p.m. in the council chamber at the Avery C. Upchurch, located at 222 W. Hargett St. Public comment will be accepted on the plan at the public hearing.

The proposal would consist of \$7.5 million for parks and recreational facilities bonds and \$1.5 million for land acquisition bonds. At the City Council's direction, the City administration is studying using the two-thirds general obligation bonds for the following special projects:

- Second-phase development of the Annie Louise Wilkerson. M.D. Nature Preserve Park in north Raleigh. This would include converting the Wilkerson residence into an education center for the City's first nature preserve;
- A new tennis complex next to Barwell Road Community Center in southeast Raleigh. The complex would consist of 18 regular courts, eight smaller "quick start" courts and a clubhouse;
- Upgrades to the City's Dix soccer fields off of Western Boulevard and to the WRAL Soccer Center on Perry Creek Road; and,

- An urban agricultural center just south of Downtown off of Garner Road. The center would offer crop sales, research, education, community outreach and job training programs.

Two-thirds general obligation bonds are a long-term financing option available to local governments in North Carolina under state law. The bond total can be up to two-thirds of the amount by which the municipality reduced its outstanding general obligation indebtedness in the preceding fiscal year. The City of Raleigh can issue up to \$9 million in two-thirds bonds prior to the issuance of other general obligation debt. The City Council approved a series of preliminary steps required by state law to issue the bonds, including scheduling the March 6 public hearing.

In past years, the City of Raleigh has issued two-thirds general obligation bonds to finance capital projects. These include City Plaza and the Raleigh Amphitheater, both Downtown, and roundabouts on Hillsborough Street.

For people and other interested parties who are unable to attend the March 6 public hearing, written comments on the proposed bond issue may be submitted to the City Clerk's Office at P.O. Box 590, Raleigh, 27602.

COUNCIL RECEIVES LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT REPORT

The Raleigh City Council, Feb. 21, received a report from the City of Raleigh Stormwater Management Advisory Commission on how low-impact post-construction practices can help protect Raleigh's streams and lakes from further deterioration. According to the report, the overall quality of surface water in Raleigh and downstream in the Neuse River continues to decline.

Conventional site-development designs usually focus on efficient site drainage by the use of impervious surfaces to collect, concentrate, and discharge runoff from a site as quickly as possible. Stormwater detention ponds are often used as the main treatment method. According to the North Carolina Division of Water Quality, this method increases stormwater drainage volume and concentrates the pollutants delivered to local waterways.

Low-impact development focuses on handling stormwater runoff as close to the site of the precipitation as possible, in a manner that mimics how nature manages precipitation, without compromising a site's development potential. When water from small rainfalls is held on-site and infiltrated into the ground or evaporated, pollutants that otherwise would be carried off-site with runoff stay on-site and the impact on local waterways is reduced naturally.

Features commonly incorporated into low-impact development designs can include:

- Conservation of natural vegetation and replacement of removed vegetation;

- Construction of less impervious surface, disconnecting impervious surfaces from piped collection systems, and using pervious pavements where practical;
- Harvesting and storing rainwater in cisterns and ponds and using it for irrigation purposes in place of potable water;
- Slowing and filtering runoff through rain gardens, bio-retention cells, trees, planter boxes, wetlands, green roofs, decentralizing runoff controls; and,
- Slowing, filtering, and conveying runoff through vegetated filter strips and swales instead of paved gutters, ditches, and underground storm drains.

The City Council referred the report to the City Public Works Committee for additional review.

The Stormwater Management Advisory Commission serves as the official citizen advisory board to the Raleigh City Council on issues related to stormwater & drainage management policy. It consists of ten members, all of whom reside within the Raleigh City limits. Members are appointed by Council to overlapping two-year terms.

For more information call the Stormwater Utility Division at 919-996-3940.

NEUSE RIVER WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT RECEIVES RECERTIFICATION FOR BIOSOLIDS ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The City of Raleigh's Neuse River Wastewater Treatment Plant has received recertification for its biosolids environmental management system. To meet the certification requirements of the National Biosolids Partnership, the City's biosolids environmental management system has to be re-verified every five years. The re-verification was completed by an independent third-party auditor and was conducted over a five-day period this month.

The purpose of the audit was to re-verify continuing conformance of the biosolids environmental management program with expectations and requirements of the National Biosolids Partnership. The re-verification certifies the City of Raleigh as having an effective biosolids environmental management system that supports continual improvements in its environmental performance. The system was found to meet regulatory compliance obligations using good management practices and creating meaningful opportunities for public participation. The audit concluded that the City is in conformance with the requirements of the National Biosolids Partnership.

On Dec. 19, 2006 the Neuse River Wastewater Treatment Plant became the 14th agency in the country and the first in North Carolina to receive certification for its biosolids environmental management system. In 2007, the plant received the prestigious platinum-level certification for its environmental management system. The platinum-level designation represents the highest achievement of biosolids management and environmental stewardship.

APPROVAL GIVEN TO PROPERTY OWNER FINANCING PROVISION FOR STORMWATER QUALITY COST SHARE PROGRAM

The Raleigh City Council unanimously approved a provision that allows property owners to use installment payments for their share of the cost of stormwater management projects partially funded through a City program.

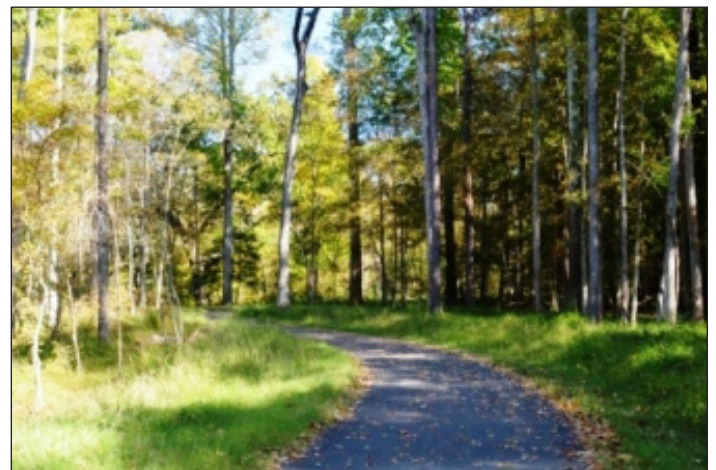
The City of Raleigh's Stormwater Utility Division offers the Stormwater Quality Cost Share Program to homeowners, businesses, and public or government agencies wanting to improve the quality of stormwater runoff on their property. The program is funded by stormwater utility fees. For qualified applicants in the Stormwater Quality Cost Share Program, the City will pay a portion of the cost of design and construction of water quality devices, such as cisterns or green roofs.

When the policy for the program was approved by the City Council in 2009, no provision was included to allow property owners to finance their portion of the project costs. The provision adopted Feb. 21, patterned after the City's Stormwater Drainage Policy, allows petitioners to use installment payments for their share of the costs provided they meet certain conditions.

For more information about the City of Raleigh's Stormwater Quality Cost Share Program, visit the City's website at www.raleighnc.gov or contact the City's Stormwater Utility Division at 919.996.3940.

POOLE ROAD TO ANDERSON POINT SEGMENT OF THE NEUSE RIVER TRAIL CONTRACT APPROVED

The Raleigh City Council, on Feb. 21, approved the selection of FSC II, LLC DBA the Fred Smith Company to build the Poole Road to Anderson Point Park segment of the Neuse River Greenway Trail.



The \$1.681 million contract includes construction of 1.2 miles of a 10-foot wide trail and a bridge over a tributary of the Neuse River. The City of Raleigh Small Disadvantaged Minority and Women Owned Business participation is estimated to be 15.3 percent of the contract or \$258,035.

The Neuse River Greenway Trail is the central spine of the Capital Area Greenway system. When completed, the trail will extend 28 miles from Falls Lake Dam on Falls of Neuse Road in northeast Raleigh to the Wake/Johnston County line. It will make connections with the towns of Knightdale, Wake Forest and Clayton. The trail is also the designated local alignment of the state-wide Mountains to Sea Trail.

The Upper Neuse Greenway Trail from Falls Lake to the WRAL Soccer complex is complete. Construction is underway for the segments of the Neuse River Greenway from Auburn Knightdale Road to Poole Road, Skycrest Drive to Horseshoe Farm Park, from the Anderson Point Park to Skycrest Road and from the Johnston County line to Auburn Knightdale Road.

CITY TO HOST PUBLIC MEETING ON BLUE RIDGE ROAD DISTRICT STUDY

The City of Raleigh will receive public feedback on the Blue Ridge Road District Study Design Options on Thursday, April 12, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Gov. James G. Martin Building, North Carolina State Fairgrounds.

The purpose of the Blue Ridge Road District Study is to develop a plan to improve vehicle and pedestrian connectivity on Blue Ridge Road in west Raleigh. The study will also seek to leverage state and local policies and investments to support growth and to guide development in the corridor to conserve natural systems and landscapes.

For more information, visit the City of Raleigh's website at www.raleighnc.gov/urbandesign and click on Blue Ridge Road District Study. Information also may be obtained from Trisha Hasch, City of Raleigh Urban Design Center at 807-8480 or trisha.hasch@raleighnc.gov.

PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR MARCH 6 FOR LEESVILLE WIDENING PROJECT

A public hearing will be held on March 6 to consider improvements related to the Leesville Road widening project. A meeting was held on Dec. 7, 2011 to present design information and preliminary right-of-way and easements needs for the widening of Leesville Road from I-540 to New Leesville Boulevard. The March 6 meeting will discuss the final authorization of the project.

The project will widen the road to a minimum of four lanes throughout and include five-foot wide bicycle lanes, curb and gutter, and sidewalks on both sides. It will also include a raised landscaped median. The public hearing will be held at 7p.m. in Council Chambers.

NEW APPOINTEES MADE TO CITY BOARDS

During its meeting on February 21, three new appointees were named to City of Raleigh commissions.

Karen Kemeraite was appointed to the City of Raleigh Board of Adjustment, Daniel Douglas was appointed to the City of Raleigh Convention Center Commission, and Dickie Thompson was appointed to the Raleigh Durham Airport Authority.

Raleigh residents have the opportunity to volunteer their services to the City to serve without pay on various boards, commissions and committees. Some of these groups are established in the City Charter. Others are created by the Mayor or City Council to perform special, limited functions.

Where not specified by law, it is the City's policy to appoint citizens to serve two-year terms with a maximum of six consecutive years of service on any specific board or commission. Citizens may serve on no more than two commissions, boards or committees concurrently.

For more information, visit the City's website at www.raleighnc.gov and enter "boards, commissions and committees" in the search box.

MARCH 20 MEETING SET TO DISCUSS EXPANSION OF MLK GARDENS

On March 20, the City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department will hold a community meeting to gather input on the expansion of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Gardens. The meeting will be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Walnut Creek Wetland Center, 950 Peterson Street.

The meeting will begin with a short presentation of the project and will be followed by a facilitated working session. In 2003, the City of Raleigh acquired 1.67 acres of vacant land in order to expand the existing gardens. Additional amenities are intended to make the park more user and family-friendly by better meeting the needs of the visiting public, including school children, college students, and elderly citizens.

To participate or make comments, please attend this public meeting, email parkplan@raleighnc.gov, or call 996-4782.



COUNCIL VOTES TO MOVE FORWARD ON LAKE JOHNSON INTERPRETIVE CENTER

The Raleigh City Council, on Feb. 21, voted to move forward with the plans for the Lake Johnson Interpretive Center without making any amendments to the master plan.

Last fall, a proposed amendment was put forward to alter the location of a proposed multi-purpose facility. The original master plan for Lake Johnson Park included a multi-purpose facility located adjacent to the pool. In 2007, Raleigh voters approved a Parks and Recreation Bond Referendum which supplied \$2.6 million dollars for design and construction of that facility.

As staff met with the design consultants in August of 2010 to discuss the building programming, other parcels around the lake were proposed for consideration and the site was recommended for reevaluation. Several different locations were then evaluated through the Public Leadership Group and a public meeting and a preferred site was recommended. However, Feb. 21's action will result in the center being located with the pool site.

FOLLOW THE CITY OF RALEIGH ON TWITTER

Looking for the most up-to-date information from the City of Raleigh? Follow your local government via Twitter!

Twitter is a free service that allows you to "follow" people or subjects via short, frequent updates. The City of Raleigh now offers Twitter users the opportunity to stay informed about the latest news and breaking events. To join in, visit www.twitter.com and get started with a few simple steps. Once you have an active account, you can elect to "follow" any of the City's Twitter accounts.

Currently, the City maintains the following accounts:

RaleighGov - This feed features links to any news releases and alerts issued by the City of Raleigh;

RaleighBPAC - This feed features information from the City of Raleigh Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

RaleighParks - This feed features any news and information related to the City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department;

RalCommServices - City of Raleigh Community Services Department

RW911 - this feed features traffic accidents reported to the Emergency Communications Center.

RaleighGoGreen - this feed features news and information from the City of Raleigh Solid Waste Services Department Recycling program

To follow any of these, simply choose "Find People" from your Twitter home page and type in the account name you are interested in and then click "follow." It's that easy.

CITY OF RALEIGH ON FACEBOOK

City of Raleigh - The main City of Raleigh Facebook page keeps you informed about events, holidays and other news items.

City of Raleigh Planning and Development - The Raleigh Planning and Development page provides guidance for the growth, preservation and development of the City of Raleigh in order to maintain a community of lasting value.

Community Services Department - The Community Services Department Facebook page posts a variety of community and neighborhood news, stories, awards, classes and Citizen Advisory Council information.

Emergency Communications - The Raleigh-Wake County 911 Facebook page posts information on job openings, public engagements and other 911 related happenings.

Like Raleigh Wake County 911 on Facebook

Raleigh Police Department - The Raleigh Police Department Facebook page focuses on public safety. Posts concerning crime alerts, missing people, requests for citizen assistance and more.

TRAFFIC ALERTS

FOR MORE CITY OF RALEIGH NEWS AND UPDATES ON ROAD CLOSURES, PARADES AND ROAD RACES, VISIT THE CITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.RALEIGHNC.GOV

ROAD RACES

March 3, Traffic will be affected from 8:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. near Fletcher Park for a road race. Click here for a map of the race.

April 1, 2012 Traffic will be affected near the RBC Center for a road race. Click here for more information.

April 21, 2012 Traffic will be affected downtown from 7 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. for a road race. Click here for a map of the race.

Traffic will also be affected for a road race near Quail Corners Shopping Center from 2 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.

STREET CLOSINGS.

February 25 The 100 block of S. Wilmington Street will be closed from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.



A portion of W. North Street from Glenwood Avenue to a point just east of the Typhoon restaurant will be closed from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m.

March 2 The 00 block of Hargett Street between Fayetteville Street and Wilmington Street will be closed from 6 p.m. until 1 a.m.

March 17 A portion of the 300 block of W. North Street will be closed from 8 a.m. until 1 a.m.

The 200 block of S. Blount Street will be closed from 1:30 p.m. until 1 a.m.

March 24 The 100 block of Fayetteville Street between Morgan and Hargett streets will be closed from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m.

April 6 The 00 block of Hargett Street between Fayetteville Street and Wilmington Street will be closed from 6 p.m. until 1 a.m.

April 13 The 200 and 300 blocks of E. Martin Street will be closed from 9 a.m. on April 13 until 5 p.m. on April 15. The 200 block of S. Person Street will be closed from 2 p.m. on April 13 until 5 p.m. on April 15. The 300 block of S. Person Street will be closed from 12 p.m. on April 13 until 5 p.m. on April 15.

April 21 Traffic will be affected by a street closure from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. The 1100 block of the South Saunders Street service road between Grissom Street and Hamel Street will be closed.

April 28 The service road parallel to Glenwood Avenue from Holly Ridge Road to Oak Park Road will be closed from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m.

PARADES

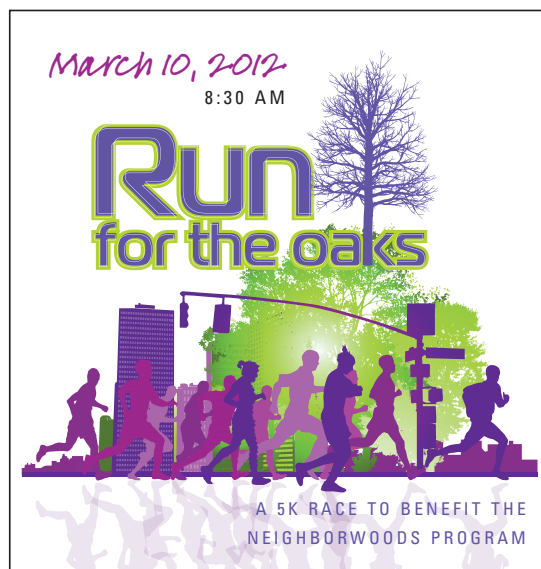
March 17 Traffic will be impacted on March 17 from 11 a.m. until 9 p.m. for a parade. At noon, the parade will travel north on Wilmington Street to Davie Street, turn west to Fayetteville Street, north to Morgan Street, east to Wilmington Street, north to Edenton Street, east to Blount Street, and south to Martin Street.

The 200 block of E. Martin Street will be closed from 10 a.m. until 11 p.m. p.m.

April 21 Traffic will be affected from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. near Moore Square for a fundraising walk. The group will enter onto Hargett Street and travel west, turn right on Fayetteville Street, turn right on Morgan Street, merge on New Bern Avenue, right on Swain Street, right on Hargett Street and return to Moore Square.

For information on downtown events visit the Downtown Raleigh Alliance website at www.godowntownraleigh.com and the Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau at www.visitraleigh.com.

NewsCOR is also available electronically. Please contact the City of Raleigh Public Affairs Department at 996-3100. If you would prefer to receive NewsCOR by email.



Annual 5K Race through downtown Raleigh

The Run for the Oaks is a 5k race to benefit planting trees in the City of Oaks. The Race is part of the Second Empire Spring 2012 Grand Prix series and the Eastern Carolina Corporate Cup team series.

For more information, contact

Kira Stewart

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